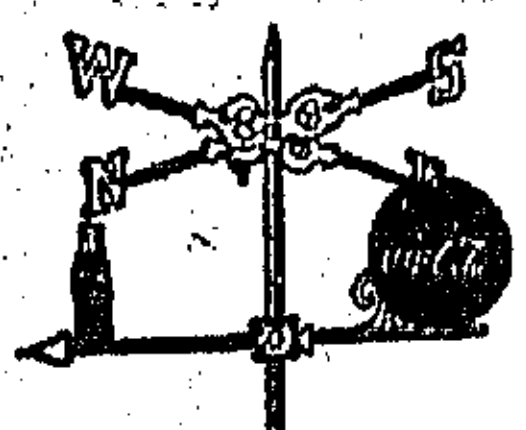


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VOL. VI NO. 30

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1951.

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BRITAIN'S REARMAMENT PLANS New Tank Factories Being Built: RAF Provision Doubled

COMMENT

The foreign policy debate in the House of Commons left many points cloudy, but it did improve the overall perspective. We cannot afford to forget the West in the ebb and flow of sustained discussion on the Far East.

Happily, the effects of the British Prime Minister's dispassionate and resolute review have been paralleled in the United States by the sharpened fears of an attack upon Yugoslavia by the surrounding satellites of Moscow.

It would be strange indeed if Peking has not demanded action in the West as a *quid pro quo* for its commitment in North Korea—or as a means of discreet exit from the impasse if Russian non-involvement in Korea is matched by similar evasion in the West.

Diplomacy does not of itself imply appeasement. It seeks to attain the same aims by peace that in the last resort have to be pursued by arms. The great re-armament programmes in the United States and, lest it be forgotten, in Britain also are an earnest of our growing strength.

There is now a pause in the two gravest issues in East and West. Sanctions in the Far East remain in the background, as a warning but not a fact. Re-armament of Germany has been given lowest priority: again a warning but not an accomplished fact.

Nor is the re-arming of Japan a fact, though Peking makes so much of it already. The warning is still there, however, and it would be wise to heed it.

Three major points in Mr. Attlee's speech show the way to the next moves in regard to Korea, to China, and to the problem of German re-armament. Above all, it is essential to force Peking to show its hand—to declare whether it is or is not prepared to settle the Korean problem on the unimpeachable principles long since laid down by the United Nations. At present, if the truth were known, it would probably be found there is a sharp conflict among the Chinese Communists themselves.

New Fighting Equipment For The Three Services

Opening the debate on the British rearmament programme in the House of Commons today, the Defence Minister, Mr Emanuel Shinwell, disclosed that Britain was building two new tank factories and laying down new production lines for the latest types of jet engines.

He listed plans for equipping and expanding the armed forces which, he said, should total nearly 900,000 by April 1, 1952.

In her drive to build up her armed forces, Britain was exploring the possibility of making more use of Colonial manpower, the Minister revealed.

Mr Shinwell said that the danger of war had become more acute in the past few months. But later he declared that he did not believe a third world conflict was inevitable.

BRITAIN TO INCREASE STRATEGIC STOCKPILE

London, Feb. 14.

The Government has decided to spend over £16,000,000 extra in the next six weeks stockpiling strategic reserves and setting up a machine tool for Britain's new arms drive.

Stockpiling plans were disclosed in the Supplementary Estimates for the year ending March 31, 1951, which were presented to Parliament today.

The Ministry of Supply will get an extra £7,700,000, plus £3,500,000 for the machine tools and other production equipment.

The Food Ministry will spend about £3,000,000 extra before the end of next month for essential foodstuffs which might be difficult to get in an emergency.

The Board of Trade will receive an extra £2,000,000 to buy key stocks in the world market.

These sums are additional to the amounts already granted to the various Departments for stockpiling and similar purposes. They bring the Supplementary Estimates since last year's Budget up to £67,000,000, including £42,000,000 for the Ministry of Defence and the three Services.

The publication of the Estimates coincided with the start of a two-day House of Commons debate on defence, in which Mr Hugh Gaitskill, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will tomorrow warn Britain of new austerities and sacrifices demanded by the nation's £4,700 million arms drive.—Reuter.

NZ Dock Tie-Up

Wellington, Feb. 14.

Port employers tonight carried out their threat to suspend all dockers who refused overtime work in accordance with their union's ban on overtime and weekend work.

As a result, all New Zealand ports will be idle tomorrow, except Wellington and Auckland and these two are certain to be involved also after tomorrow.—Reuter.

The Minister gave details of new fighting equipment for the three Services. Provision for the Royal Air Force would be nearly doubled, more naval ships and planes would be built chiefly designed to beat the submarine and mine threat. The development of guided weapons and anti-tank weapons was proceeding.

The output of the British Centurion tank is to be greatly increased so that the re-equipment of the British armoured divisions could be rapidly completed.

Mr Shinwell described this tank as second to none of its type in service in the world today.

Provision for the Royal Air Force would be nearly doubled. Deliveries of a new fighter of very fine performance would begin this year.

Other new types which represent a really big advance on present types, are not far off and have been ordered in large numbers, Mr Shinwell said.

Britain was also exploring the possibility of acquiring a number of United States F-86 (Sabre) aircraft—the fastest fighter actually in production today.

Production of the twin jet bomber, the Canberra, had begun and the rate of output would be greatly accelerated.

FIGHTER EXPANSION

Mr Shinwell disclosed that Britain was embarking on a further major expansion of her Fighter Command. The doubling of the day fighter force had been completed, and it was now being doubled again.

A new jet night fighter force was also being built.

Fighter squadrons had almost completely been re-equipped with jet aircraft, and bomber squadrons would soon be similarly re-equipped. First orders had been placed for a new four-engined jet bomber to replace Superfortresses.

Air Force expansion would enable Britain to make a big contribution to the North Atlantic defence force.

SUBMARINE THREAT

At sea, the main preoccupation was to deal with the submarine and mine threat. More frigates, minesweepers and small craft would be built, and new types of naval aircraft provided.

The conversion and modernisation of existing warships was being speeded up.

The total strength of the armed forces should be approaching 900,000 by April 1, 1952.

Mr Shinwell said that satisfactory advances were being (Continued on Page 8, Col. 3)

London, Feb. 14.

Surprise Move By Churchill In Commons

London, Feb. 14.

Mr Winston Churchill, Britain's wartime Prime Minister, tonight challenged the Labour Government on its ability to carry out the defence programme.

The Opposition leader tabled a surprise amendment in the House of Commons supporting the Government's three-year, £4,700,000,000 rearmament programme but expressing no confidence in its ability to carry it out.

If the amendment—to a Government motion seeking approval for its policy—is adopted by the House tomorrow, it will almost certainly mean the resignation of Prime Minister Clement Attlee's Labour Party Government.

The amendment, tabled as the House began a two-day defence debate, is the third Conservative attempt within a week to throw out the Socialists. But political observers expect that the Government will manage another narrow majority vote.—Reuter.

HEAVY SNOW IN JAPAN

Tokyo, Feb. 15.

Rail, air and highway traffic on all four Japanese islands was bogged down today in a snowstorm which in some areas was the heaviest since 1945.

Tokyo mentioned 124 inches—the heaviest since 1945—by 10 p.m. on Wednesday. And Osaka and Chikuma reported the heaviest fall in 25 years.

Telephone and railway lines were down in Hiroshima and Osaka. In Tokyo many people were stranded in offices and military personnel on duty were not required to return to their billets because of transportation breakdowns and the dangerous condition of the streets.—United Press.

Villages Attacked

Rangoon, Feb. 14.

A force of 200 Communist insurgents attacked and occupied three villages in the Henzada district, 80 miles north of Rangoon, an official communiqué said today.

Village defence units retreated to secure bases. Steps were being taken to drive out the Communists, the communiqué added.—Reuter.

STRATEGIC LINE BELOW THE 38TH ADVOCATED

London, Feb. 14.

British military quarters believe that United Nations forces in Korea should stop at a strategic line roughly 10 to 25 miles below the 38th Parallel, it was disclosed today.

Informed quarters said British experts feel that the Western armies should not go beyond the waist of the Korean peninsula roughly running from a point north of Inchon on the west coast to a point between Chumunjin and Yanggan in the east. They emphasised that the 38th Parallel itself could not represent any militarily sound line which could be rigidly maintained by the Allied forces.

Besides offering a better defence line, according to British military experts, positions south of the 38th Parallel would be more conducive to establishing a climate necessary for negotiations with the Chinese.

In the British military view, it would be impossible to try to adhere to the fiction of a defence line on the 38th Parallel which is regarded here as strategically untenable.

Meanwhile, Foreign Office sources said that discussion with the United States on future moves regarding the crossing of the 38th Parallel had made no progress in the past few days.

A spokesman said there has been no new development on this issue and so far there have been no discussions on this score with other nations who have contributed to the United Nations Korean force.—United Press.

Britain May Have Atomic Carriers

London, Feb. 14.

British atom scientists and engineers have seen to give the Government details of design and cost of an atomic engine powerful enough to drive a medium-sized aircraft carrier.

A Ministry of Supply spokesman said today that as soon as the scientists had completed their investigation of design and cost, the Government would decide whether to approve construction of a prototype engine.

One estimate of the probable cost of a prototype engine—which would not be fitted to a vessel but used experimentally on land—is £7,500,000. But the scientists are making great efforts to find ways of cutting the cost.

It is believed that they have already satisfactorily overcome the problems of finding suitable materials for those parts of the engine which would have to stand up to nuclear bombardment and yet fulfil other important requirements.—Reuter.

France And Italy Reach Agreement

Santa Margherita, Feb. 14.

France and Italy agreed today on limited German participation in Western defence and German equality in European political and economic matters.

After three days of high level conference here, the two nations announced that decisions were reached to tighten all economic, political and military co-operation within the framework of the Atlantic Pact as the only way to save peace.

They announced plans to co-ordinate action to combat Communism in Italy and France, bring Germany into the European Council with full equality, co-ordinate the rearmament programmes and distribution of raw materials, and hold periodic consultations to co-ordinate their foreign policy.

The Italian Premier, Signor Alcide de Gasperi, said Italy and France had reached agreement in favour of the French Premier Rene Pleven's European Army plan and supported General Eisenhower's own plans as supreme commander of the Atlantic Pact forces. Signor de Gasperi said Italian support of the Pleven army plan did not mean any change in Italian policy.

However, Italy had previously supported German participation in Western defence as visualised under the Pleven Plan. M. Pleven insists that only small German units be formed and these units integrated into Western European defence gradually.

The Italo-French talks started on Monday night. Besides the Prime Ministers, the Foreign Ministers of the two countries and military and economic experts participated.

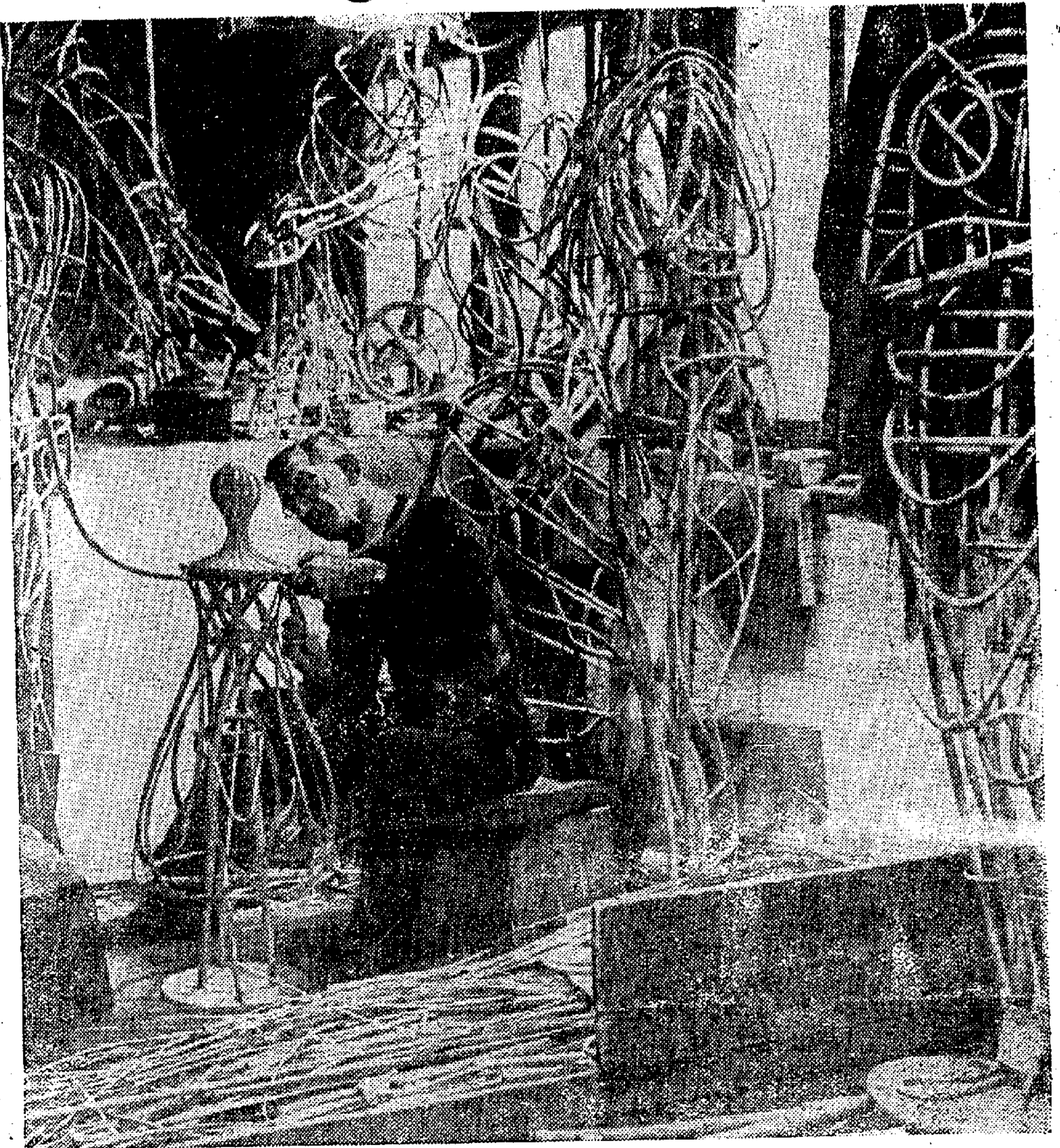
—United Press.

Argentine Reply To Britain

Buenos Aires, Feb. 14.

Argentina will answer the British request for further meat talks, possibly on Friday, diplomatic sources said tonight. The Government was said to be putting the finishing touches on the reply today.—United Press.

He's Making Wicker-Work Ladies



Few women have as many curves as these wicker-work ladies being fashioned in London by Frank A. White. The craftsman makes the fantasies in a shop where wicket cradles for Queen Victoria's children were made, and some of his work will be on view at the Festival of Britain.

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EMPIRE TALKS ON ASIAN AID MAKE PROGRESS

Columbo, Feb. 14.

The Commonwealth Consultative Committee for economic development in South and South-East Asia today set up a six-nation sub-committee to study the form of a "continuing" organisation which the delegates agreed was necessary to facilitate the work of the Committee.

When the Committee moved on to this second point of their four-point agenda, some of the delegates suggested that the form of the organisation should be considered after discussion of the question of financial aid for the Committee's plan.

It was suggested that there should, first of all, be a scrutiny of the present arrangement whereby aid is obtained on a bilateral basis.

The delegates unanimously agreed, however, that some form of a secretariat should be established in Colombo. This secretariat, it was agreed, should not consist of more than two or three officers.

The sub-committee, which met this afternoon, is understood to have completed its work and is expected to report back to the Committee tomorrow.

Members of the sub-committee are Mr P. C. Bhattacharyya (India), Mr M. T. Flett (United Kingdom), Mr D. D. Kennedy (United States), Mr Said Hassan (Pakistan), Mr T. K. Critchley (Australia), and Mr R. Goomaraswamy (Ceylon).

The continuing organisation, or secretariat, to be set up in Colombo would be distinct from the existing Technical Co-operation Bureau also set up by the Consultative Committee. The Secretariat would deal mainly with the financial aspects of the Colombo Plan, an official spokesman explained.

Although the Committee has not officially announced any

change in its name, it has been describing itself in official communications as the "International Consultative Committee for Economic Development of South and South-East Asia."

The word "Commonwealth" has thus been dropped in favour of "International." This was an expected move to encourage participation by non-Commonwealth countries.

The Thai delegation is known to favour full participation by its Government and has so recommended, according to usually reliable sources, but full participation of Burma and Indonesia is stated to be still a doubtful quantity.

Informed sources said that it was not clear how Burma could effectively help in the Plan.

These sources added that Burma's greatest need was for technical assistance which could just as easily be obtained by bilateral agreements.

The Indonesian delegates are understood to take the view that full participation in the Plan would place Indonesia definitely on one side of the camp, thus further adding fuel to the cold war between Communism and Democracy.

Delegates from Laos have failed to arrive for the con-

Adenauer Turns Down Offer

Bonn, Feb. 14.

The West German Chancellor, Dr Konrad Adenauer, today rejected the East German Premier, Dr Otto Grotewohl's, renewed offer for all-German unity talks, made in a speech in Dresden last night.

In a statement issued here Dr Adenauer said it was most significant that Dr Grotewohl said in his speech that he and his friends were prepared to fight for the Soviet Union. Dr Grotewohl's speech had confirmed that the East German Government was an authority sponsored by the Soviet Union, Dr Adenauer added.—Reuter.

Pole Applies For Asylum

Washington, Feb. 14.

A United States official told the United Press today that the Polish Commercial Counsellor, Zygmunt Litynhik, has applied to the State Department for political asylum.

Litynhik applied to the State Department for asylum on Jan. 29. United States officials said asylum would probably be granted in view of the fact that Litynhik appeared to have confined his attention to commercial matters, but that a Federal investigation for such application would be made.—United Press.

ference and no explanation is available here for their absence. Delegates from Cambodia are also believed to favour full participation in the Plan. This is the first meeting of the Committee attended by delegates from the Philippines.—Reuter.

WARNING TO RUSSIA POSSIBLE

Anglo-U.S. Discussions Taking Place On Position Of Yugoslavia

Implied Warning Given By Mr. Dean Acheson

London, Feb. 14.

Usually well-informed quarters here said today that they believe London and Washington have discussed whether it would be useful to warn Russia soon not to make any move against Yugoslavia.

A Foreign Office spokesman refused to go beyond saying that London was in touch with Washington about the position of Yugoslavia and that clearly all aspects of the Yugoslav problem were being considered.

Observers thought that the recent reports of a possible move against Yugoslavia in the Spring had prompted more specific contacts between Britain and the United States.

Mr Kenneth Younger, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, told the House of Commons today that the rearmament of Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania was one of the matters Britain wished to have discussed at a four-power conference.

It was hoped that the proposed four-power conference would offer an opportunity of discussing the various causes of world tension. "It would be premature to bring the question of satellite rearmament before the Security Council at this stage," he added.

Mr Anthony Eden, the deputy Opposition leader, asked: "Is it the Government's intention that this item should figure on the agenda of a four-power conference?"

Mr Younger: "That is one of those we have prominently in mind but nothing is fixed about the exact time."—Reuter.

He had an interview with Marshal Tito and his Foreign Minister, M. Edvard Kardelj.

Mr Perkins told a Press conference that in this the Yugoslav leaders agreed with the opinion expressed by the United States Ambassadors in Europe at two recent conferences in Paris and Frankfurt.

The American representatives did not think preparations had gone far enough in the satellite countries for anything yet.—Reuter.

Pakistani Minister At White House

Washington, Feb. 15.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan, told reporters after a visit to the White House today that he had discussed with President Truman the Kashmir situation which he expects to be brought before the United Nations.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister said his country's dispute with India over the rich province of Kashmir and several matters of mutual United States-Pakistani interest were taken up during his 15-minute conference with the President. These matters did not include the Indian wheat grant, now under consideration by the United States Congress.

Sir Zafrullah, who heads the Pakistani delegation to the United Nations, called primarily to pay his respects to Mr Truman whom he had not seen for over a year. He presented to the President the second volume of an English translation of the Koran—the Muslim scripture—in process of being published here by the Ahmadiyya movement.—United Press.

Appeal For Dr Seagrave Lodged

Rangoon, Feb. 14.

Counsel for Dr Gordon Seagrave today appealed to the Burmese High Court to set aside the conviction of the American medical missionary for high treason, on grounds that the case had not been proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Kyaw Myint, the Burmese attorney representing Dr Seagrave, concluded his appeal on Tuesday by saying the prosecution had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the surgeon by his acts encouraged, aided and comforted Karen insurgents within the meaning of the High Treason Act.

The Attorney-General will present the case for the Government on Feb. 19.—United Press.

Flu Epidemic In Switzerland

Berne, Feb. 14.

Influenza caused eight deaths in Switzerland during the week ending Feb. 3 in towns with more than 10,000 population, the Federal Health Authorities announced today.

The incidence of the epidemic continues to rise, 12,590 cases being reported in the country in the week ending Feb. 10 as against 7,117 cases in the preceding week.—Reuter.

CHINESE RECRUITS IN MALAYA

London, Feb. 14.

The Government is considering recruiting Chinese in Malaya into regular units of the armed forces, Mr John Dugdale, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, said in Parliament today.

Mr Leonard Gammans (Conservative) asked him what action he proposed taking to the officially expressed desire of the Chinese community in Malaya that a Chinese regiment be recruited as part of the Malayan Defence Force.

Mr Dugdale replied: "The present need is for Chinese in the police force. The Right Commissioner has made it quite clear that there is no more effective way for the Chinese to show their loyalty to the Federation at the present time than by joining the police force."

"The possibility of recruiting Chinese into regular units of the armed forces is also under consideration."

Mr Gammans: "Does that mean that the Government proposes to consult with the communities and with the Malays in Malaya before taking this step?"

Mr Dugdale: "We consider that much the best thing is for the Chinese to take part in the general Malayan forces for the whole country of Malaya, of which they are citizens."

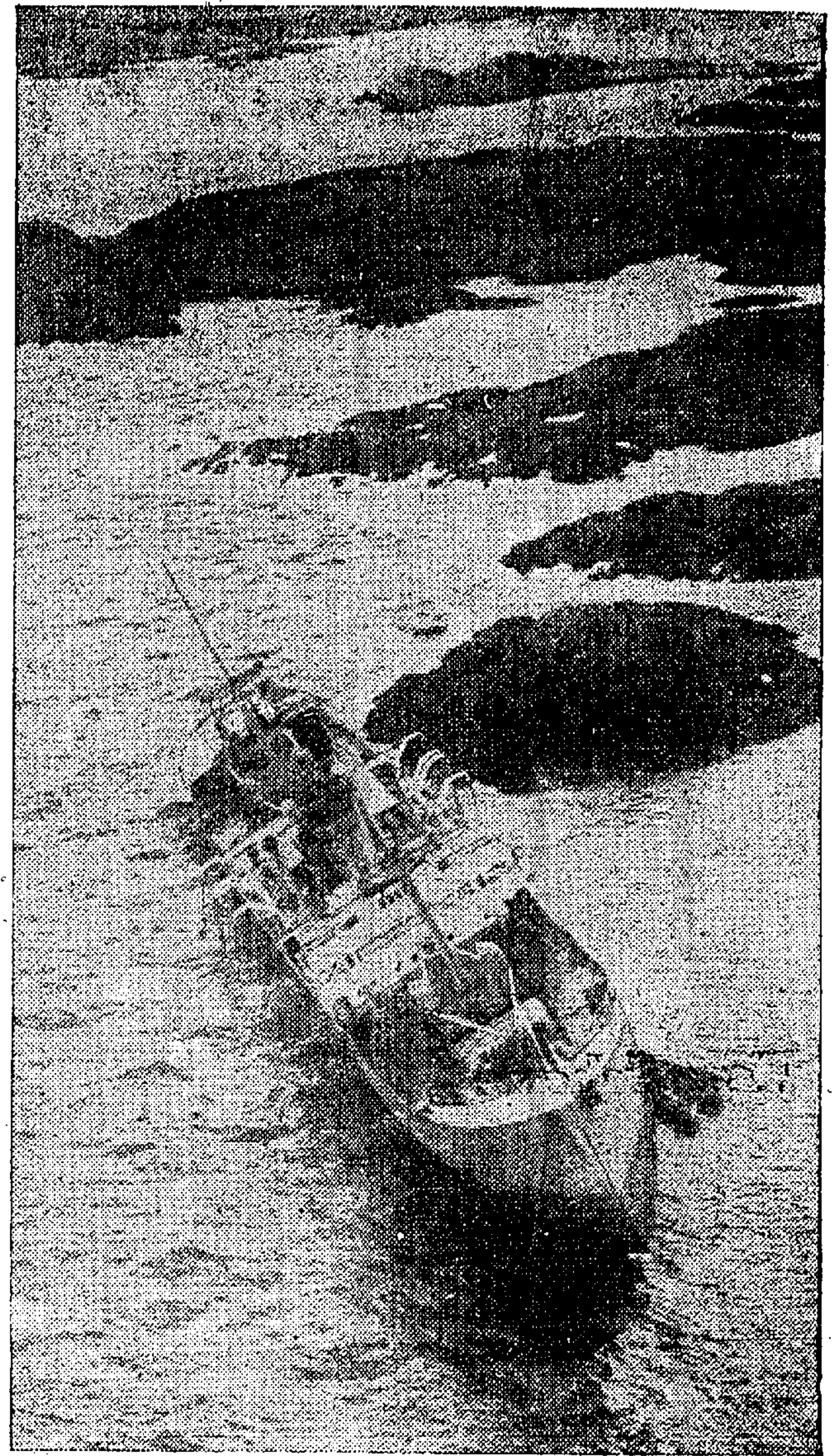
Asked how the Chinese community had responded to the appeal to join the police forces, Mr Dugdale said that he could not give the exact figures without advice.—Reuter.

Italy Warned

Rome, Feb. 14.

The Left Wing Socialist, Riccardo Lombardi, warned the Chamber today that in the event of armed conflict with Russia civil war would break out in Italy.

Signor Lombardi was the first speaker as the debate began on the Government's request for an extraordinary grant of 250,000,000,000 lire to help Italy rearm. The Government majority assures passage of the grant but the debate is expected to be hot during the next week.—United Press.



DEATH OF A SHIP—The abandoned 6,609-ton motorship Tapti is balanced precariously on a rock in the Sound of Gunna, where she ran aground off the west coast of Scotland. The crew of 62 was rescued after the ship was impaled on the rocks.

Atomic Energy For Shipping Envisaged

Washington, Feb. 14.

The chairman of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, Senator Brian McMahon, believes atomic energy will be used eventually to power commercial ships as well as submarines.

Mr McMahon's Committee heard what he said was a very enlightening and interesting progress report on the atom-powered submarine now being developed. He told newsmen: "I certainly think this atomic submarine will be the forerunner of peacetime use of atomic power. Certainly if a submarine can be propelled by atomic power so can a freighter or other type of ship."—United Press.

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Party For Street Sleepers



The Hongkong Street Sleepers' Shelter Society and the Hongkong University Social Service group gave a supper to street sleepers this week to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The party was held at the shelter at West Point which was formerly St. Peter's Church. The street sleepers on the right are tucking in while two tots in the centre await their turn to be fed.—Staff Photographer.

Malaya Gov. Has New Scheme

Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 14.

Dato Onn Binn Jaafar, the President of the United Malay National Organisation and former Prime Minister of Johore State, has accepted the post of Member for Home Affairs in the Federal Government of Malaya under a new scheme.

This scheme provides for the appointment of a certain number of non-official Members of the Federal Legislative Council (not exceeding nine) by the High Commissioner. They will be in charge of a group of Government departments. With them will be associated two official Members without portfolio.

The scheme was approved by the Federal Legislative Council at its January sitting and is expected to be functioning by April.—Reuter.

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5 Million Men Under Arms In Russian Bloc Of Nations

Washington, Feb. 14.

Two Senate Committees reported today that the Russian bloc of nations had almost 5,000,000 men under arms, organised into 175 divisions, while the Atlantic Pact forces total 4,500,000 men, of which 2,600,000 represent ground troops.

The report, distributed by the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees, are believed to be the first official data yet compiled. It was disclosed on the eve of Senate hearings on the controversial issue of United States troops in the combined Atlantic Pact forces under General Dwight Eisenhower's command.

The document appeared designed to answer critics of the joint security project who maintain that Russia's ground strength cannot be met by the Western ground armies on the continent of Europe. The report stated that the economic and military capabilities of the Western nations "greatly exceed" those of Russia and its satellites.

The information in the report, according to the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Tom Connally, was gathered from "various government and public sources."

The "estimated" Soviet armed strength was set at 4,000,000 men, with an additional 965,000 which could be drawn from such satellite countries as Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Rumania, but the Committees made no effort to judge whether the Soviets actually could count on satellite strength in the event of war in Europe.

There was no claim that the West at this time could come near matching the 175 Soviet divisions which account for an overwhelming portion of Russia's 4,000,000 men under arms.

It was also stated that the Western forces could draw on about 2,700,000 men in reserve forces, while no such figure was presented for the Soviet bloc.—United Press.

The Committees found greater comfort in economic figures, although it was pointed out that information came largely from Red sources and therefore was subject to some doubt.

On annual steel production, the Western total was listed at 142,300,000 metric tons against 33,000,000 for the East. This was an estimate of the

"capabilities" of 1950. Crude oil showed a Western total of 459,100,000 metric tons and 46,000,000 for the East. On primary aluminium total ore was 192,500 metric tons for the East and 1,266,500 tons for the West.

This shows, according to the Committees, that "at the present time the apparent economic and military capabilities of the Western Hemisphere and Western Europe greatly exceed the capabilities of the Soviet Union and its satellites."

The Senate document appeared to some observers to be an attempted answer to suggestions from ex-President Herbert Hoover and Senator Robert Taft that the United States would do well to concentrate on defending the Western Hemisphere.—United Press.

Turbo-Propeller Airliner

London, Feb. 14.

Britain's turbo-propeller airliner—the Vickers Viscount—will start carrying passengers on regular services to Europe this year.

The Viscount is the first of a fleet of 28 airliners that Britain plans to operate on her European services.

Eight planes fitted with turbo-propeller engines will also start running to Europe this summer. The turbo-propeller plane—a compromise between the jet plane and the orthodox propeller driven aircraft—is powered by gas turbine engines. The engines are simpler than the orthodox type and give passengers a smoother ride.

The Viscount is 40 miles an hour faster than a comparable piston engine airliner and though it consumes more fuel the British European Airways Corporation says it reduces operating costs by about 20 per cent.—Reuter.

Appeal To Suspend Execution Of Seven War Criminals Made

Bonn, Feb. 14.

Dr Konrad Adenauer, the West German Federal Chancellor, today appealed to the United States High Commissioner, Mr John J. McCloy, to suspend the execution of the seven Landsberg war criminals until certain discrepancies in the grounds for the sentences had been clarified.

A "Working Group for Truth and Justice," headed by the Princess Helene von Isenburg, the "mother of the Landsberg prisoners," had written to Dr Adenauer claiming that Mr McCloy had been "wrongly" advised in maintaining the death sentences, the West German news agency DPA, reported.

Werner Fietz, speaking on behalf of this organisation here last night, said that the Group had heard that the execution would not take place today as had been arranged.—Reuter.

NO INFORMATION

Frankfurt, Feb. 14.

The headquarters of the United States Armed Forces in Europe, which controls Landsberg Prison, told Reuter today that "no information is available as to the date of the execution" of the seven S.S. men condemned as war criminals.

"Relatives will be permitted to visit the condemned prior to their execution, but no information is available as to the schedule for such visits," a Headquarters spokesman stated.—Reuter.

VISIT BY RELATIVES

Frankfurt, Feb. 14.

The United States High Commissioner, Mr John J. McCloy, has told Bishop theophil of Wuerttemberg-Baden that any delay in the execution of the seven condemned war criminals at Landsberg Prison is only to allow relatives to visit them, an authoritative source told Reuter today.

Mr McCloy, who was replying to an appeal by the Bishop to save the men, said that another reason was to allow the prisoners to be "given full opportunity for spiritual assistance."

Relatives of the seven condemned men had been told that they could visit them once more before February 13. No date has been announced for the hanging of the men, who include leaders of the notorious Blackshirt exterminating squads.—Reuter.

Statement On Suez Question Is Declined

London, Feb. 14.

Mr Kenneth Younger, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, declined to make a statement on the Suez question in the House of Commons today and said that the Government was awaiting the result of the United Nations discussions.

He had been asked by Colonel Crosthwaite-Eyre (Conservative) to state "what action had been taken to ensure that Egypt respected British rights in and through the Suez Canal."

Mr Younger said that he could not add to the Parliamentary reply of January 29 by Mr Ernest Davies, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

(Mr Davies then said that it was expected that discussions with Egypt would be resumed when detailed studies were complete).—Reuter.

AGREEMENT ON ISRAEL'S "LIFELINE"

Jerusalem, Feb. 14.

Israel and Jordan reached agreement today in their dispute over a three-mile stretch of the Beersheba-Eylath road—Israel's "lifeline" to the North-Eastern Red Sea port of Akaba.

The dispute led to a battle involving armoured cars last December, when the Arab Legion set up a roadblock on the road, which runs along the Israel-Jordan frontier for some miles in the southern part of the Negev Desert.

Under the agreement reached through the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, one kilometre of the road will be considered Jordan territory while the rest of the road to Eylath runs in Israel territory.

The Commission condemned recent border incidents which claimed lives on both sides and left it to high ranking representatives of both Governments to settle ways and means to prevent their recurrence.—Reuter.

ARAB SECURITY PACT

Damascus, Feb. 14.

The Syrian Premier, Nazim al-Kodsi Bey, said today that he would submit the Arabs' collective security pact signed recently in Cairo, to Parliament for ratification next month.

The pact was signed by six members of the League—Egypt, Syria, the Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the Yemen.—Reuter.

Russian Captain's Tall Story

Singapore, Feb. 14.

A Russian sea captain deftly snapped his fingers today and said that American ships sent to Russia on the lend-lease were so badly built that they fell apart in heavy seas.

Captain Konstantin claimed: "We don't need these American ships; we would be glad to return them at any time."

(In Washington, negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union for the return of the American ships in Russian hands have been stalemated for many months. American officials said the Russians refused to return the ships, offering instead to pay for them).

Konstantin's vessel, Ivan Polshunov, and three other Soviet coastal vessels are in Singapore.

The British mine-sweeper, Manned, normally based at Singapore's naval base, steamed into the main harbour presumably to keep an eye on the Russian ships. The Navy said, however, that there was no connection between HMS Manned's visit and the presence of the Russian ships.—United Press.

EUROPE ARMY COMPROMISE PLAN

Submitted By British Representative At Strasbourg Assembly

More Closely Knitted Defence Body

London, Feb. 14.

Mr Duncan Sandys, Rapporteur for the European Army in the European Assembly at Strasbourg, has produced a two-stage compromise plan for the setting up of a European Army.

It was learned authoritatively today that the plan has been circulated to all the Governments attending the European Army conference, called by France, which opens in Paris tomorrow.

The plan, which has a military stage and a political stage, has been issued by Mr Sandys in a personal capacity.

It would:

1.—Provide a loose framework in which all the European

members of the North Atlantic Pact, including Britain, could take part without difficulty despite the fact that some are not prepared to agree to certain figures in the French Premier, M. Rene Pleven's, plan.

2.—Enable those nations which are ready to accept the full conditions of the Pleven plan to set up a prominently and more-closely integrated European defence organisation. —Reuter.

GERMAN POSITION

Munich, Feb. 14.

West Germany will only weaken her position if she commits herself to rearmament for European defence before a "Big Four" conference meets, Dr Kurt Schumacher, the leader of the German Social Democrat Party, said over Munich Radio tonight.

A worthwhile West German military contingent would take years to establish, he declared.

"The lightheadedness and lack of reserve with which the question of a German military contribution is often discussed here in the West by the Allies and Germans are reinforcements for the Communist propaganda arsenal," he avowed.

The only way to protect West Germany was to insist on political and military equality and, above all, to set up a "strong wall of steel" of defence works, he said.

Dr Schumacher reiterated his call for free, democratic elections for all Germany as a counter-offensive against the Soviet Zone appeals for unity talks.

If the West succeeded in ensuring all-German elections as the first step towards unity, "all the trumps will be in the hands of Democracy." The result would be different if all-German elections were negotiated at a conference of an equal number of East and West Germans.

The Soviets, as before each four-power conference, were trying to awaken and monopolise the Germans' natural seeking for unity, he said. If the propaganda from the East resulted in the establishment of a "shadow German government" composed of Communists and non-Communists, well-wishers and traitors, then this would be "the greatest propaganda instrument for national subjection under the national flag and to the accompaniment of national music."

"The East is attempting to kill freedom by unity," he declared. —Reuter.

New UK Envoy On Way East

London, Feb. 14.

Mr L. H. Lamb, Britain's new representative in China, has left to take up his post in Peking.

Mr Lamb is replacing Sir John Hutchison, Britain's first representative to Peking after the establishment of the Chinese Communist regime. Mr Lamb is travelling via Singapore and Hongkong.

A Foreign Office spokesman said special arrangements will be made in Hongkong to fly Mr Lamb to Peking. —United Press.

PHILIPPINE RED CROSS FUND DRIVE

Manila, Feb. 14.

President Quirino declared the 1951 Philippine Red Cross fund drive open this morning with a plea for redoubled public support of the mercy organisation.

In a Malacanang ceremony, which followed a parade, the President presented Mrs Myron Cowen, the campaign vice-chairman and wife of the United States ambassador to the Philippines, with a cheque for 1,000 as his contribution to the drive.

While President Quirino called for increased effort to realise the Red Cross money-raising goal, he asked his listeners not to forget other fund-raising drives such as the Peace Fund drive and the Community Chest, whose activities, the President said, were no less vital than those of the Red Cross. —United Press.

Japan Could Not Remain Neutral

Tokyo, Feb. 15.

Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida told the American Ambassador, Mr John Foster Dulles, during a conference here that Japan's economy would not permit her to remain neutral.

Premier Yoshida also told the House of Councillors today that the present police force, including a 75,000-man semi-military national police reserve, is adequate for domestic security. Japan could not remain neutral in the event of a conflict at the Japanese doorstep.

However, he added that Japan would have to rely upon collective defence against outside aggression rather than to attempt to become militarily self-sufficient. —United Press.

In Full Sail Off HK



This picture, taken during the annual Royal Hongkong Yacht Club race to Macao, shows the Dragon class "Ecstasy," sailed by Mr W. Dubois, off Hongkong. There was a fine following breeze when the picture was taken.

Propaganda Not Up To Scratch

Moscow, Feb. 14.

A Communist Party committee today ordered the speedy elimination of shortcomings and inadequacies in the Communist propaganda and intensifications of ideological education in the Moscow area.

The committee, headed by Politburo member Nikita Khrushchev, ended a full session with a decree reviewing its work. Top Communist leaders analysed the elaborate system of public lectures and radio and Press political education in the Soviet capital. They found the ideological and political level and the scope of public lectures had not come up to the required standards.

The decree said, "There are not enough lectures in Moscow and towns in Moscow district on scientific atheistic propaganda. Lectures in natural science are rare, are not resolute in character and only mildly expose prejudices and superstitions. They did not unmask the reactionary character of religious ideology. . . . Party organisations forget that religious prejudices are the survival of the past and can be eliminated only by taking an offensive in scientific atheistic propaganda." —United Press.

Diplomacy New Style

New York, Feb. 14.

The Daily News said in an editorial today that it was "diplomacy new style" when the United States was willing to give India food while India "goes on playing footsy with Soviet Russia and Red China."

It said President Truman's request was made to "stave off mass hunger in that country and thereby keep Nehru safe from possible revolution and overthrow." —United Press.

Vast U.S. Naval Construction

Washington, Feb. 14.

The United States Senate Armed Services Committee unanimously approved today a vast naval construction programme, including a new type of aircraft carrier big enough to handle atomic bombers.

The legislation already passed by the House of Representatives will now go to the Senate. Approval was expected to be speeded up.

The plan would authorise an immediate start on the construction of large fleet of surface fighting ships, submarines, tankers and other vessels. —Reuter.

Mr. Dulles The Soul Of Discretion

Canberra, Feb. 14.

Mr John Foster Dulles, President Truman's special envoy in the Far East, said here today that he had had no discussions at all in Tokyo on rearming Japan. "I do not think the word was ever even mentioned," he added.

Mr Dulles was replying to questions on his arrival here from the Philippines for talks with the Australian Government.

Asked about aid for Japan, Mr Dulles said: "My final statement before leaving Japan was that the United States felt that Japan had to stand on her own feet economically."

He expects to spend four or five days in Canberra before going to New Zealand to continue discussion on the Japanese peace treaty.

Mr Dulles' talks with the Australian Minister for External Affairs, Mr Percy Spender, and the New Zealand Minister for External Affairs, Mr Frederick Doidge, will begin tomorrow. —Reuter.

ference the problems of Turkey — "a major contributor to the cause of collective defence and security" — would receive "thoughtful consideration against the background of our deep interest in the welfare and continued independence of the Near East." —Reuter.

Near And Middle East Affairs

Istanbul, Feb. 14.

United States diplomats began their conference to discuss Near and Middle East Affairs at a secret session here this morning.

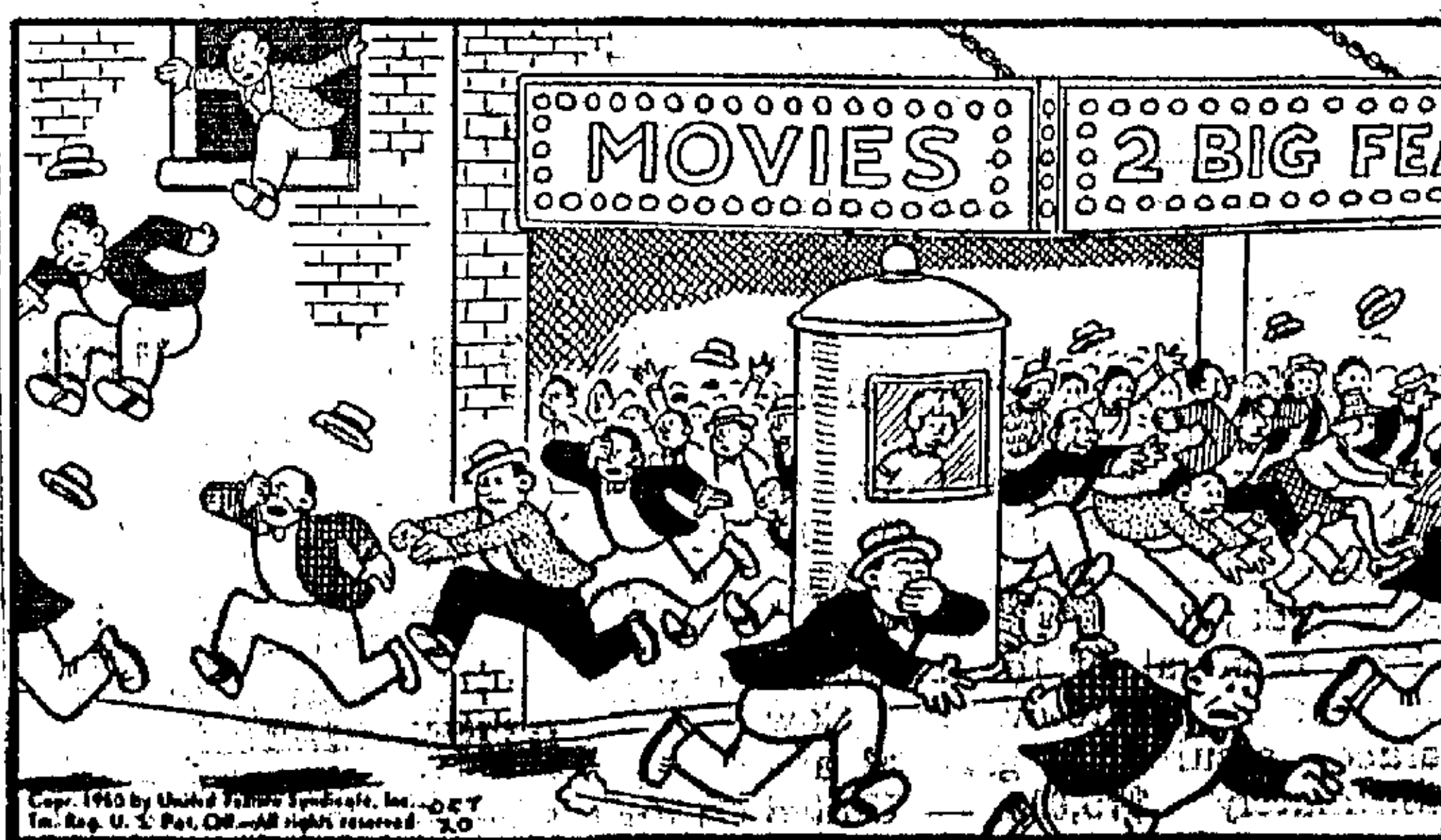
American Secret Servicemen early today were drafting a list of people to be allowed passes for the opening of the secret conference, which will last a week.

Mr George Crew McGhee, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and African Affairs, who is presiding, has said that at the con-

NANCY

Dis-stink-ly Unpopular

By Ernie Bushmiller



WILL GEHRMANN BE THE FIRST TO RUN A FOUR-MINUTE MILE?

By CORNELIUS RYAN

New York.

The four-minute mile still fascinates track and field people, and Don Gehrman's name still leads all the rest in speculation on that "dream mile."

Gehrman's coach at the University of Wisconsin predicted a year ago that Don may some day run the four-minute mile, and another Wisconsin coach, Tom Jones, said that "Don is still four years away from his peak and he has a fine chance of doing the four-minute mile."

Latest to see this world-record possibility in Gehrman is Fred Wilt, presently rated as just a little better than Don among American milers.

Fulham Are London's Last Cup Hope

London, Feb. 14.

Fulham are London's last Cup hope. They gave one of their best exhibitions since gaining First Division status and towards the finish overran their neighbours, Chelsea, in an entertaining fifth-round Cup replay today at Craven Cottage, which they deservedly won by three goals to nil.

The vital first goal came within 20 minutes. Bowie, who was only transferred from Chelsea to Fulham recently, was going through when an opponent was guilty of a wild charge and the referee unhesitatingly awarded Fulham a penalty kick. Stevens sent the ball low to the right of the Chelsea goalkeeper, who stood in the mud, absolutely helpless.

Fulham's two other goals came in the second half from Brennan, the Irish centre-forward, and both were masterly efforts.

Chelsea tried hard but their finishing was weak and it was Fulham's pace and confidence that carried them to victory. On this form Fulham could, at least, force a replay in their sixth round tie at Blackpool on Saturday week.—Reuter.

SOCCER RESULTS

London, Feb. 14.

The following were the results of football matches played today:

FA CUP
Fifth Round Replay
Fulham 3, Chelsea 0
(Fulham are now away to Blackpool in the sixth round on February 24).

Scottish Cup
2nd Round replay
Airdrieonians 2, Morton 1
Third Division, Southern
Reading 3, Norwich 1
(This match was postponed last Saturday, February 10, as Norwich were engaged in the FA Cup).—Reuter.

Semi-Finalists In French Tennis Championships

Lyons, Feb. 14.

Marcel Bernard, France's No. 1 player, easily beat Mario de Bello, of Italy, by 6-4, 6-2 and 6-2 to enter the semi-finals of the Men's Singles in the French International Covered Courts Lawn Tennis Championships here today.

Karl Axelsson (Sweden), Henri Cochet (France) and Jaroslav Drobny (Egypt) reached the semi-finals yesterday. In the men's doubles, Drobny and Francois Garnete (France) beat Axelsson and Henri Soler (France) by 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 and 6-3.—Reuter.

"Gehrman is the one person I know who is capable of running the four-minute mile," said Wilt. "He has speed enough to be one of our better 400-meter runners and stamina enough to be one of the best two-milers. All he needs is the experience and competition."

When pressed by a questioner, Wilt added that Willie Slykhuys of Holland also has a possibility of running the four-minute mile, but it was obvious that Wilt was much more impressed by Gehrman's chances than by Willie's.

"DREAM MILE"

Gehrman, now 23 years old and out of college, is a confident, almost cocky runner, and admits that he wants to run that "dream mile" if he can—and in the 1952 Olympics. He wants to win a place on the USA team and then take the 1,500-metre championship.

Wilt is rated slightly better than Don right now because Fred is 30 years old, and distance runners always mature late. Wilt has the experience which gives him the edge now, but most experts agree that he won't come close to four minutes for the mile, although he did 4:05.5 outdoors last year on the Atlantic City board walk.

The present indoor season should provide a good line on these two, for they probably will meet several times in the



Don Gehrman

Louis Still The Greatest Fight Attraction

San Francisco, Feb. 14.

An unprecedented demand for tickets forced the transfer of the Joe Louis-Andy Walker fight on February 23 from the San Francisco Auditorium to the Cow Palace, promoter Jimmy Murray said on Wednesday.

With tickets all sold out for the 9,000-seat civic auditorium two days after the fight was announced, Murray finally decided he would have to move to the 16,000-seat Cow Palace on the outskirts of San Francisco.

"We never saw anything like it," Murray said. "The phone rang day and night with fans demanding tickets. It's obvious that Joe Louis is still the greatest attraction in the fight game today."

The removal of the battle to the huge State-owned Cow Palace assured a gate of approximately \$75,000.—United Press.

mile, with Ingvar Bengtsson of Sweden and Alf Holmberg of Sweden and the U of Tennessee also present to keep Wilt and Gehrman on their toes.

Fred Wilt believes that the average young American distance runner has the inherent ability to beat European runners, but Wilt sadly admits that the promise is unlikely to become a reality.

NOT SUPER-MEN

"Europeans are not super-men," said the 30-year-old Wilt. "Our average running prospects have it all over the Europeans, but the Americans simply don't have a chance to develop. We are better physically and have a natural speed Europeans don't possess—and this doesn't mean me, but all young Americans interested in running."

"However, there are two big reasons why Europe is so much distance to America in long-distance running. The first reason is lack of interest in the sport in America, and the other reason is our hot weather during the outdoor track season. "In the matter of interest, Finland offers a good comparison. That nation has 2,000 tracks and fewer than four million people. New York City alone has almost eight million population and only 16 tracks."

NOT ENOUGH

"As for distance-runners, there aren't enough meets in the USA for runners who no longer are in school. Distance men hit their peaks later than other track men, and there isn't enough competition for them. In Europe there are many such meets."

Wilt has run in London, Sweden and Finland, and he is hopeful of adding Buenos Aires to that list by competing in the Pan-American Games beginning late in February.

He is a certainty to make the trip if he can get time off from his job as a Federal Bureau of Investigation man—and that seems likely, since the FBI is proud of his record.

Wilt, who was married a few weeks ago, plans to continue as a runner until after the 1952 Olympics.

"But it isn't easy to stay in shape," he said. "I work six days a week, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. then train for 90 minutes each night in Prospect Park in Brooklyn, running six to 12 miles. That means I do a lot of running under the street lights—I guess it's the worst possible life for a runner, physically."

But he seems to be thriving on it. He ran two miles in an indoor meet in New York on Jan. 6 in 9:06.3, and coach Emil von Elling said "Wilt ran so smoothly and evenly he reminded me of Paavo Nurmi."—United Press.

Rugger Results

London, Feb. 14.

The following were the Rugby Union results today:

HOSPITALS CUP
FIRST-ROUND REPLAY:
University College Hospital 9, Charing Cross Hospital 6.

OTHER MATCH
United Services Chatham 11, United Services Portsmouth 17.—Reuter.

BLOCK THAT KICK!



A Portsmouth defender, left, is caught in mid-air by the camera as he attempts to block a kick by a Chelsea man during an English soccer game in London. This is a game that's as rugged as it is active.

Jackie Paterson Should Give Up

Says PETER WILSON

Of the many things I could well do without in professional boxing the recurring come-backs of past champions rate high.

Indeed, I wouldn't call them come-backs for only too tragically often they're nothing but come-downs.

In America Joe Louis, despite one recent quick win, is lurching along a path which is bound to lead downwards. Now, in Scotland, another former world champion proposes coming back—not for the first time.

His name is Jackie Paterson, ex-flyweight champion of the world.

HIS RECORD

Now let's take a look at southpaw Jackie's record since the beginning of 1948. In March of that year he was knocked out by Rinty Monaghan for the world's title.

From that day to this he has won only three fights. He has been stopped inside the distance by Jean Machtelink, and was knocked out in two rounds by the Scottish bantamweight champion, Eddie Carson last May.

He has not won a fight since he beat one Mustapha Mustaphaoui nearly 18 months ago.

Since the Carson defeat Paterson has not fought—and I only wish that he were not going to do so again.

'THEY HATE HIM'

Talking of Joe Louis reminds me that I've just heard from one of the world's great boxing trainers, Ray Arcel, the man who trained Ezzard Charles to beat Joe Louis, and handled him during the recent title fight against Oma the Aroma. Writing of the champion Arcel says:—

"Charles has much to overcome following Louis as champion. He is in the same position today as Tunney was when he beat the great idol of the fight public—Jack Dempsey."

"No one wanted to recognise Tunney as champion, and the same goes for Charles today."

The public actually hates the guy for beating Louis.

"From all accounts Louis will try to regain his title in June. My opinion is that Charles will knock Louis out if they meet again."

TWO LIKE IVERSON

Recently I pointed out how Australian Test player Jack Iversen developed his astonishing bowling action by practising with a rubber ball after being wounded in his middle finger.

Now reader H L'E, points out that there have been two similar cases—and both Australians.

One was W. Roche, who played one season for Middlesex at the turn of the century. He had lost two fingers of his bowling hand and was also suffering from a stiff thumb.

The other was none other than H. Ironmonger. According to Sir Donald Bradman he had lost the first joint of the index finger of his bowling hand, which prevented him from spinning the ball orthodoxly, and as a result his action was always said to be questionable.

—(London Express Service)

LAMOTTA 41½ LBS. HEAVIER

Chicago, Feb. 14.

Jake LaMotta, who defends his World Middleweight Boxing title over 15 rounds here tonight, scaled 4½ pounds heavier than his challenger, Ray Robinson, the World Welterweight Champion, at the official weighing today.

LaMotta scaled exactly 160 pounds, the middleweight limit, while Robinson was 155½ pounds.—Reuter.

Building Of Trade Relations Between China And Soviet

Mr Lin Hai-yun, head of the Foreign Trade Department of the Chinese Ministry of Trade in Beijing, said today that the development of trade relations between China and the Soviet Union in the past year was one of the main factors contributing to the rapid restoration of China's industrial, and agricultural production.

London, Feb. 14.
Prices of tin collapsed on the
market this afternoon.
The main cause of the tumble
was a report from New York
that the trade circles that the
United States government is
seriously thinking of discontinu-
ing its stockpiling tin.
Prices closed at the end of
the afternoon session as fol-

tin, buyer	1,540
tin, seller	1,560
business done at	none
6 months tin, buyer ..	1,490
6 months tin, seller ..	1,500
business done at	1,520 - 1,490
movement	

—United Press.

New York, Feb. 14.
World sugar futures closed
y 1 to 7 lower, with sales
ling 659 contracts.
ontract No. 6 closed today
wer to 2 higher, with sales
ling 143 contracts.
rices closed today as fol-

Chicago, Feb. 14.	
Prices of grain futures closed	
today as follows:—	
Wheat—price per bushel	
Ch	2.57 ³ / ₈
Ch	2.58 ¹ / ₂ — ⁷ / ₈
Ch	2.58 ⁵ / ₈ — ³ / ₄
Ch	2.54 ¹ / ₂ — ³ / ₄
ember	2.56 ³ / ₈ — ¹ / ₄
ember	2.58 ³ / ₈
Ch	—
Ch	1.87 ¹ / ₂ —1.87
Ch	1.87 ¹ / ₄
ember	1.86 ³ / ₄
ember	1.82 ¹ / ₄

New York, Feb. 14.

The dullness prevailed in the rubber and futures market for the rubber. Trading remained at a complete standstill on the commodity exchange in London where prices closed to 100 points lower on bids. Prices closed today as follows:

.....	74
.....	72.50 bid
.....	62.00 bid
.....	United Press.

New York, Feb. 14.
The spot pepper market
ed quiet with sellers main-
ing a steady to firm at-
de on prices.—United Press

Singapore, Feb. 14.

Prices of rubber futures
closed here today as follows:--

Number 1 rubber, per lb.	
February	221-222
March	214-215
April	
Number 2 rubber,	
February	211-212
Number 3 rubber,	
February	201-202
Number 4 rubber,	
February	191-192
Spot rubber unbled	232-234
Black crepe	163-166
No. 1 pale crepe	230-234
—United Press.	

IF we want the forty-odd millions of Western Germany to be on our side in the conflict with Russian imperialism, we must obviously be prepared to organise their defence against any Russian invasion of their country. That implies our making our stand, not on the Rhine, but on the Elbe.

It also implies that German soldiers and German factories should contribute to the defence. For to throw the defensive burden — soldiering and manufacturing alike—upon the peoples of America, Britain, France and Benelux, without obtaining any contribution from the people most concerned, whose immediate frontier was being defended would seem unreasonable in the highest degree.

That, one may assume, is the broad argument which the United States is trying to bring home to France at the present time. It is difficult to see any hole in it, especially when French Governments are so much at the mercy of defeatist elements that they are unable to face raising their period of conscript service to two years. For so to raise it is the indispensable condition for France's pulling her defensive weight; and, unless she pulls it, how can she ultimately oppose our obtaining weight from another quarter?

Jakarta, Feb. 14.
A Japanese shipping man is at present in Jakarta to discuss with the Indonesian Government the lifting of ships sunk in Indonesian waters during the last war. He is Masao Sakai, president of the Nihon Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha.

Washington, Feb. 14. The government set the support rate for middling $\frac{7}{8}$ inch cotton at 29.86 cents a pound. Better grades would command higher rate. The government guaranteed the price still considerably lower than the current cotton prices. The Department reported that as of mid-January farmers were receiving an average of 42 cents a pound for 1950 cotton.—United Press.

New York, Feb. 14.
Prices in the metal market
here closed today unchanged
with the following exceptions:—
Tin, Grade A (99.80 per-
cent or higher) New
York, per lb. 183
Lead, common, New York,
per lb. 18½-19½
—United Press.

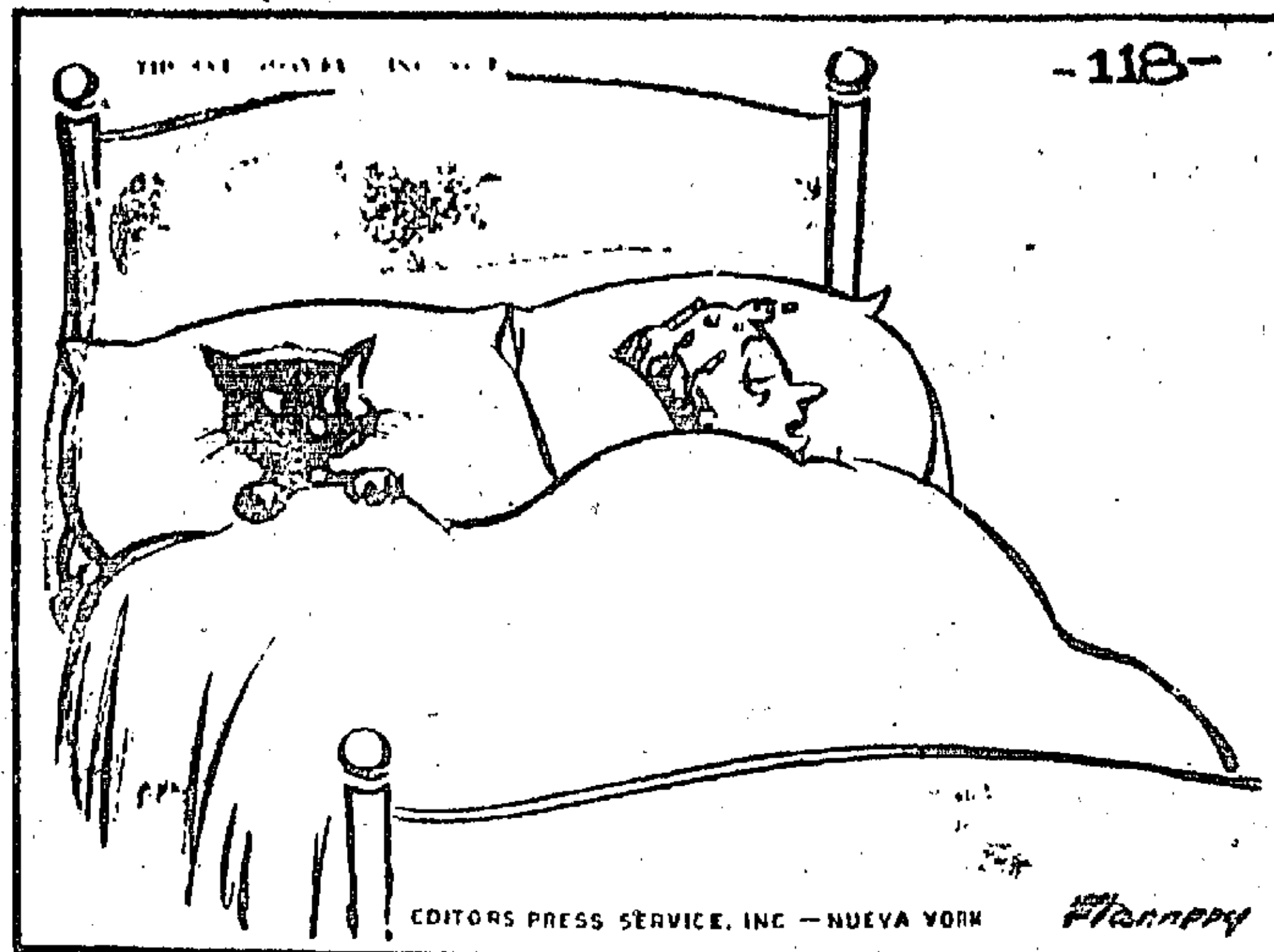
London, Feb. 14.

Prices of rubber future
closed here today as follows:

Number 1 rubber, in cents per lb.	72 nominal
March	68
April/June	61 nominal
July/September	55 "
October/December	52 "

—United Press.

New York, Feb. 14.
Sellers offered copra for
nearby shipment at \$285 per
short ton. All coconut oil posi-
tions were quoted at 21½ cent.
asked a pound.—United Press.



"Did you put the cat out, dear?"

was only allowed a small force. Yet it proved sufficient in the hands of General von Seeckt to become the nucleus of a resurrected German Army. Germany, again, was forbidden a General Staff. But you cannot have a force without a staff to direct it, and given Seeckt's staff as a nucleus quick expansion became as possible there as for the Army itself. What must never be forgotten is the existence in Germany of a large militarist caste, from which for centuries the officers have been drawn. It still exists, the back-bone of every Nationalist movement, latent but biding its time. The sole security against that is to keep Germany completely disarmed for a long lifetime at least.

Already in 'Western Germany the old Adam of militarist Nationalism is a force. One sees that by the ill-advised attempts of the Socialists to outbid it. One sees it no less in the caution of Dr. Adenauer. It is not for nothing that the Chancellor deprecates forming a new German Army. The more power we concede to the West German Government, the more the Nationalists will seek to turn that power to sinister ends; and the only simple way to prevent them from re-militarising Germany is to maintain the complete ban on German soldiering.

Is there any practical compromise by which these opposing arguments may be reconciled? The simplest and possibly the best would have been for each of the three occupying Powers to recruit German battalions in its area to serve with its own forces. Politics apart, there is little doubt that the men would be forthcoming; and the plan would be only an extension of the present practice, whereby the non-combatant services of the occupying forces employ Germans on a large scale. But, naturally enough, the Nationalists have opposed the idea, and raised a slogan of "No mercenary army!" to which unhappily both the Socialists and the Government of Western Germany have given way. Yet there is a force in the facts, which might some day reverse this current.

THE other chief plan is the Federalist one, for which the present French Government has now secured parliamentary support. Its formula is "a European Army under a European Minister of Defence." It might be regarded as complementary to the Schuman Plan. The Plan deals with the heavy industries and seeks to eliminate rivalry in them between German and France by bringing both under the control of a supra-national authority. In the same way rivalry would be eliminated on the military side by creating the European Army and Minister of Defence, in and under which French and German

soldiers would serve on equal terms.

The scheme is easier to admire on paper than to visualise in practice. It raises many unanswered questions. Could the European Army and Minister of Defence supersede the need for a French Army and—Minister of Defence? Surely not; for the European machine could never deal with military tasks in Indo-China or Morocco. But if France retained her military organisation, how could there be "parity," unless Western Germany had one too? How, in any case, could the European Minister organise his Army save on the basis of national armies, and how could he avoid doing this in Western Germany without occupying a relation to the West German Government and Parliament quite different from his relation to any other? Doubtless under the Atlantic Pact, as hitherto conceived, there will be one operational army under one commander; but it will be composed of contingents from national armies, and the German contingent (unless recruited as "mercenaries") would have to be so based too.

THESSE, complicated riddles can hardly be answered in any very near future. The formulae suggested by the French Government to the American might take years to work out. But the problem of how to defend the Elbe line is more immediate. Supposing we assume a certain respite from risks during this winter, we cannot afterwards. A French Government awkwardly situated in its Parliament may on political grounds think well to play for time. But on military grounds nothing could be worse.

If a German contingent is to help to preserve peace next summer, its organisation and training should not be delayed. Might not a serious attempt be made to alter the Bonn Government's attitude towards our recruiting "mercenaries"? It might fairly be pressed on them as indispensable for their own defence.



"Better come on to the pavement, mister, or you'll get knocked down!"

ROK'S ON WONSAN'S OUTSKIRTS

South Korean Marines Occupy Two East Coast Islands

Desperate Fighting Raging On The Wonju Front

Tokyo, Feb. 15.

South Korean Marines who yesterday landed at the Korean east coast port of Wonsan have reached the outskirts of the city, according to latest reports received here. Wonsan is parallel with the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. It is 80 miles north of the 38th Parallel.

Eighth Army headquarters said that the Marines had also occupied two islands off the coast. A spokesman said that no reports had been received of United States Marines taking part in the landing.

The South Korean Marines went ashore under the protection of the heavy guns of the U.S.S. Missouri, the world's biggest battleship, cruisers and destroyers.

Observers thought that the aim of the raid was to burn supplies and kill as many Communists as possible.

Last October American Marines landed at Wonsan which became a supply base for the campaign in north-east Korea from which United Nations forces withdrew after the Chinese intervened in December.

The main ground fighting today was on the central front around Wonju, the communications and supply town which has been the scene of bitter fighting during the past month.

United Nations troops fought well to hold the determined twin-pronged Communist counter-offensive launched at the week-end.

The garrison at Chipyong made up of American and French troops — held firm north-west of Wonju while powerful Communist tanks tried to overwhelm the last night. But flares thrown down by planes allowed artillery and other planes to play havoc in the Communist attack which slowed up and finally broke were described as follows.

DESPERATE FIGHTING

While the main Communist drive was being pushed down the other arm immediately north of Wonju was receiving reinforcements which United Nations aircraft harassed all day.

One particularly successful air strike was made against a south-bound Communist column on its way to join strong concentrations north-west of Wonju.

A Tenth Corps spokesman said that it was no exaggeration of this air assault to say that the river was red with blood and that oxen and carts were blown to bits and scattered all over the landscape.

Communist onslaughts were of the yelling "banzai" pattern and Allied troops had to withdraw north of Ichon. There was also desperate fighting north of the supply route between Wonju and Yoji.

In the western sector Communist forces seemed to be trying to establish a firm bridgehead across the Han River west of Seoul. On the west of the city is the Kimpo airfield. United Nations troops in trenches were shelled and mortared by Communist batteries north of the river.

Weapons were again out in strength to give all the help they could to the ground troops who were checking the Communist advance in many places. — Reuter.

BRITAIN'S PLANS FOR DEFENCE

(Continued from Page 1)

made in guided weapons, aeronautics and in the many fields to which radar could be applied. There was special emphasis on the development of anti-tank weapons.

Certain new air squadrons had already been formed in the Middle East as the beginning of a considerable increase in our strength in that theatre, Mr Shinwell said.

He did not enlarge on this. Mr Shinwell said that the danger of war had become more acute in the past few months.

If the Communists' "Korean experiment" was successful, Berlin or Western Germany might be the next step. The threat to Western Europe had become plain.

On co-operation between the North Atlantic Powers, Mr Shinwell pointed out that Canada had made over to Holland equipment for the division, and she was now about to do the same for Belgium.

COLONIAL MANPOWER

Commonwealth countries were playing their part. Discussions had taken place with Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Ceylon.

There had also been the usual close collaboration between the Services of all the Commonwealth countries.

Britain was exploring the possibility of making more use of Colonial manpower to strengthen her armed forces, Mr Shinwell said.

Mr Shinwell ended by saying that the new arms drive did not mean war was inevitable — its purpose was to prevent war.

Mr Harold MacMillan, speaking for the Conservative Opposition, deplored what he called the Government's obstructive and contemptuous attitude towards the efforts of other countries to form a European army.

Without such an army the resources of France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and other European countries would not be used to the full.

YUGOSLAV DANGER

Britain should have sent high-ranking officers to take an active part in the forthcoming Paris conference on a European army, he said.

Mr MacMillan asked what would happen if an attack were made this Summer by the Russian satellites on Yugoslavia or if trouble occurred in Persia.

"Oil is the Achilles heel of Russia, but also creates the shrewdest blow that could be struck at Britain's strength," he said.

Mr MacMillan said that in view of the dangerous situation which had been allowed to develop in Albania — the forti-



The lovely lady seen above with John Garfield Sherry Britton. They are getting into the spirit of the thing during a rehearsal in New York for "Pe Gynt."

TIBET NOT Britain's "WRITTEN OFF" HCL Higher

Geneva, Feb. 14

The cost of living in Britain was nine-tenths higher September, 1950, than before the war, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

A bulletin of the Commission issued tonight, said that the cost of living in Britain remained constant in the first three quarters of 1950 at 100 except for a rise in April to 101 compared with 100 in 1948.

The 1948 level was given in the bulletin as 131, compared with 100 in 1938, which would make the cost of living in 1950 nine-tenths higher than before the war.

Western Germany, Turkey and Switzerland showed a fall compared with 1948.

All other countries showed a rise but the cost of living fell towards the 1948 level in several European countries in the first three quarters of 1950, the bulletin said. — Reuter.

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Commons Queries On Rubber Supply To Communists

London, Feb. 14.

Mr John Dugdale, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, said today that if there were "undue" exports of rubber from Malaya to Russia, China and other Iron Curtain countries, the Government would investigate the matter.

He was replying in Parliament to a Conservative Member, Mr Peter Remnant, who asked him what restrictions were now placed on destinations of exports of rubber from Malaya.

Mr Dugdale said that 14 per cent of Malaya's gross rubber exports went to Russia, China, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Mr L. D. Gamman, Conservative, asked: "Will you comment on the fact that five times as much rubber was sent to Communist China in the last six months of last year as in the corresponding period of the preceding year?"

"Do you realise that the rubber has to be produced by British planters who are being killed by agents of the very same Government?"

Mr Dugdale said: "It has not been decided that there should be general sanctions against all trade with Soviet Russia, China and other countries behind the Iron Curtain."

"We are carrying on normal trade, and normal trade in such items as rubber is subject to an overall view of the proposal."

If we find that, in fact, there is undue export we shall naturally take steps to look into the matter."

Mr A. T. Lennox-Boyd, Conservative, then asked: "Does it follow from that answer that, as far as sales to Russia and the satellite countries are concerned, they are entirely with the Government's approval at the moment?"

Mr Dugdale replied: "I would not exactly put it like that. We only look into the matter if we find that there are abnormal sales. If the sales are normal we leave it to the normal course of private enterprise."

Earlier there were Labour cheers when a Labour Member asked Mr Dugdale: "In view of the record rubber prices will you restrict the sale as well as the scope of profiteering?" He got no reply. — Reuter.